



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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ENERGY & POLITICS: GOING AFTER MISS LYNCH.

Editor's note: A solution to Calif.'s huge energy problem is coming together – but very slowly. Gov. Gray Davis(D) continues to get solid marks from voters for his handling of the crisis and this is beginning to irritate Republicans, who really have no master plan of their own – other than to urge faster approval of power generating facilities. And so to put some pressure on the Teflon-covered Davis, to drive his numbers down and generally pester Davis political operative Garry South, there appears to be a concentrated effort by some GOPers to go after the person that the governor appointed to lead the Calif. PUC, Loretta Lynch. Here's our update & analysis...

...The repeated drum beat these days is that Lynch, an attorney with solid political experience (Feinstein, Eastin, Clinton, Davis) is not qualified to lead the PUC and Davis ought to get rid of her because she's already blundered several times. That line comes mostly from GOP political consultant Sal Russo, who has a client, William Simon Jr., exploring a 2002 race against Davis...

...But Russo isn't alone in going after Lynch. New CRP Chair Shawn Steel threw in his two cents saying, "Many contend this appointment (of Lynch by Davis) helped lead Calif. into its current energy crisis, since Lynch has never held a job in the real world." And then there's savvy GOP spin doctor Dan Schnur, former Gov. Pete Wilson's chief spokesman, who called Lynch, "The Rose Bird of Electricity." Well it worked back in 1986...

...The linkage to Rose Bird, the late former CA Supreme Court chief justice, still clicks with many voters who didn't like her and voted to throw her off the high court. Bird's key problem was that she was arrogant and refused to respond to the attacks. Lynch is politically savvy and isn't afraid to dish it back. A Mar. 5th Sacto BEE story quoted Lynch responding to Schnur: "I guess I'm just not going to respond to labels tagged on me by the chief apologist for the father of deregulation." Yes, dereg did occur on Wilson's watch and it was Wilson's PUC which pushed the current plan...

...Labels aside, Russo's *The Corruption of Power – A Report On Loretta Lynch*, is a masterpiece when it comes to a well documented political hit. And in addition to Lynch, Davis gets bashed too in this 17-page white paper. For example, Russo makes the jump from 2002 to 2004 for Davis and says Davis' idea is to blame Pres. George W. Bush and his energy/oil allies for the Calif.'s energy problem. "Blame the guy who has the job you want." Good spin, but probably doesn't work. Davis isn't looking beyond 2002 and many voters think some of Bush's energy friends are to blame for the current crisis...

...Back to Lynch. Russo documents her time in the White House as being part of the rapid response team (w/the late Vince Foster and Susan Thomases) on *White Water* related issues. This may not cut it in terms of going after Lynch on energy, but it's interesting and White Water still has a negative ring. Stay tuned...

AB 1338: BILL INTRODUCED IN CALIF. TO ALLOW GAYS & LESBIANS TO ENTER INTO CIVIL UNIONS.

Editor's note: This bill duplicates the *civil union* law which is now on the books in Vermont, the only state which has such a law. This CA bill would allow gay & lesbian couples to have the same rights as married couples. Here's our update & analysis...

...The author of AB 1338 is Paul Koretz(D-West Hollywood), one of the most *politically correct* member of the CA Legislature. Koretz says his bill is about equity and basic rights. His quote in the L.A. Times said, "It's simply a matter of justice."...

...But does justice have a price? The answer is YES and our sources say Koretz's Assembly Demo Caucus colleagues *were not* happy campers because they had no prior warning he would introduce this very controversial bill. Most members of the Demo Assembly Caucus don't have a problem with domestic partnership, but civil unions is a whole different story...

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... And bet your first born Gov. Gray Davis(D) isn't about to sign this bill into law, not when he faces voters in 2002. For those with short memories, voters approved the Protection of Marriage Initiative about a year ago. Prop. 22 won with **61.2%**. In other words, this bill is political dynamite for Demos and GOP political consultants will be watching carefully to see which Demos vote YES. It's not a problem for Koretz, who is married and comes from the 42nd AD, one of the safest Demo seats in the Legislature. FYI: passage of the civil union law in VT cost Demos control of the lower house of the State Legislature...

... As **Calpeek** hit deadline, AB 1338 had not been assigned to a policy committee and there are some who think Rules Cmt. Chair Dennis Cardoza of Modesto may not even assign the bill. But if it does go to a policy committee, odds are it will go to Judiciary, where it currently stands a 50-50 chance of winning approval...

... If it does hit the floor, it presents a problem for a number Demos from moderate and swing ADs. Included are Nakano, Matthews, Salinas, Frommer, Liu, McLeod and even Christine Kehoe, who is a lesbian and was the author of San Diego's domestic partnership law. If any of these Demos vote YES they could be *political toast* in 2002. In addition there are Demos from the Central Valley who will vote NO or be put at risk. These Demos include Cardoza, Florez, and Reyes. Another Demo who can't afford to vote in favor of 1338 is Lou Correa of Orange Co. Stay tuned...

THE POLANCO FILE: SACTO POLITICAL INSIDERS KNEW ABOUT SENATOR'S OUT OF WEDLOCK SON.
Editor's note: It's out of the bag – thanks to Philip Matier & Andrew Ross of the S.F. Chronicle. Their Mar. 2nd column told all about the “little known birth certificate” which contained the info about CA Sen. Richard Polanco's out of wedlock son, born Dec. 21, 1992. Polanco is married with 3 children. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... First, **Calpeek** had a copy of this birth certificate long before the S.F. Chron broke this story. Our copy of the certificate was mailed from Sacto in an unmarked letter on Feb. 8, 2000. We suspect members of the Capitol Press Corps also had copies, but saw no reason to print the info. Neither did **Calpeek** until the story finally broke...

... The Mar. 2nd column said “everyone is shocked.” Well, not really. Many L.A. and Sacto political insiders had been aware of the birth certificate for a long time. And although we never mentioned the birth certificate before, **Calpeek** strongly hinted some of Polanco's political enemies might hit him with some “heavy and nasty” stuff in the midst of his

now-abandoned L.A. Council race. (See **Calpeek's** Feb. 26th issue – XXIII, #9)...

... So who gave the info to Matier & Ross? Our sources think the leak came from Sacto, but we can't confirm this. Believe it or not, there's not much finger pointing...

... Another question: was the birth certificate, combined with the contribution he received from Horacio Vignali, enough to cause Sen. Polanco to drop out of L.A.'s 1st District Council race? Insiders don't think so, but won't go any further in speculating. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: UPDATE ON L.A. MAYOR'S RACE.

Editor's note: L.A. political insiders are all abuzz about the new poll on the Arp. 10th mayor's race by the L.A. Times. Two of the campaigns, Jim Hahn & Steve Soboroff, are very pleased, while the others are grumbling, saying the poll is off the mark. This week **Calpeek** will show four(4) polls. Here is our update & analysis...

... The L.A. Times survey was taken Feb. 24-Mar. 1 among 532 likely voters. The LAT methodology uses random digit dialing. Most all political pollster prefer to use voter files when polling. With a voter file you have an individual's voting history as well as demographic info. With random digit dialing, the first task is to make sure the person called is a registered voter. See the problem? It's not to say random digit dialing isn't a valid polling method, but there are certainly gaps which stand out...

... Here are the four polls: Connell (Feb. 1-4, 600 likely voters); Feuer (taken by S.F. pollster Gene Bregman, Feb. 23-25, 600 likely voters); Villaraigosa (taken by Mark Mellman, 800 likely voters); L.A. Times...

	<u>Connell</u>	<u>Feuer</u>	<u>Villaraigosa</u>	<u>L.A. Times</u>
Hahn	15%	20%	15%	24%
Wachs	20%	20%	15%	11%
Villaraigosa	13%	12%	12%	12%
Soboroff	6%	6%	9%	12%
Connell	18%	8%	8%	8%
Becerra	8%	4%	5%	10%

... It's no wonder both Hahn and Soboroff love the L.A. Times' poll. And so should U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra(D-L.A.) because it puts him back in the hunt with the rest of the pack. The **big loser** in the L.A. Times poll was L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs. As one sources said, “Soboroff is stealing out of Wachs' pocket.” As for former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, he's been holding steady at 12-13%, but he's now up on tv and so is Wachs. Sources say Connell will be up the week of March 12th. Most

sources still feel Hahn makes the June 5th runoff, but among the other five it's a toss up. Some continue to think Becerra and Villaraigosa killing each other off – ditto Soboroff and Wachs, who seem to be locked in what one observer calls, "Texas chainsaw wrestling." ...

...As for Connell, while the LAT poll has her last among the Big 6, this data also puts her as 2nd choice among many voters and her profile scores well. Connell consultant John Shallman says his candidate's theme that L.A. isn't functioning is the correct message, given voter attitudes about public safety, the L.A. School district and traffic gridlock. She's also been saying that L.A. is in a fiscal meltdown, but that doesn't fly with neutral observers...

...Shallman and others agree on one thing: the race is still up for grabs. And he feels that whichever candidate has the big points on tv in the last 2-3 weeks, with the right message, makes the runoff. "It's five guys in a suit vs. a woman," he says. But as one of Connell's rivals sees it, "Connell is a Demo woman trying to act like a Republican man – and that does not fit into the 5 guys vs. 1 woman theme she's pushing." Interesting. Unlike Hahn or Villaraigosa, Connell isn't establishing field offices or doing much GOTV. Her entire campaign effort is about raising money for tv. And she's got some savvy fundraisers on her team, including Kimberly Ray (Davis) and Sheila Creal (Boxer)...

...FYI: Villaraigosa is up on tv, but his team had to scramble to pull one of their first ads which had a typo: **accountability** was spelled with just one C in the ad. It's now been fixed. Stay tuned...

24th SD SPECIAL ELECTION: ROMERO VICTORIOUS IN STATE SENATE RACE OVER GALLEGOS. NO RUNOFF

Editor's note: By the time you read this story, Demo Gloria Romero of L.A. will probably be the newly sworn State Senator of the 24th District – and Gov. Gray Davis(D) will soon call for yet another special election to fill Romero's unexpired term in the 49th Assembly District. Here's our update & analysis...

...In politics, some things just aren't meant to be – and if you believed the polling data from Romero's camp – former Assemblyman Martin Gallegos(D) just never had a shot at winning. The March 6th special was more than just a win for Romero: it was a blowout. She won the SD with **55.17%**, meaning **no runoff** with GOper Vince House, who got 15.15%. Romero's chief rival, Gallegos, managed to get only **28.25%**, which worked out to just 13,080 vs. 25,544 for Romero. Just about 2-to-1. Voter turnout was a very low 16.6%. So Romero is now in the upper house...

...So what happened? Why the huge blowout for Romero? **First**, Romero wanted this election very much. In other words, she really had the fire! **Second**, Romero used the power of incumbency to her advantage, not only in fundraising and winning endorsements from key groups, but in keeping money/support away from Gallegos. **Third**, Romero's ballot title of Assemblywoman certainly had an impact. Remember: Gallegos had just been *termed out* and couldn't use the title "former Assemblyman." Perhaps voters who did not pay attention until late figured Assemblywoman Romero to be the more experienced of the two. **Fourth**, there's no doubt that the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor's endorsement and independent expenditure was a factor in Romero's win. Romero's good friend and ally, Fed leader Miguel Contreras, really worked hard for Romero and it paid off. And **fifth**, Romero's gender was a factor as well. More women tend to vote in Demo primaries than men...

...Big winners included labor; U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis; CA Assemblyman Herb Wesson; and Parke Skelton & Steve Gray-Barken, Romero's consultants. And check this out: Darrell Alatorre, Richard's son, was Romero's daily campaign manager. Polling for Romero was done by GLS Research (Paul Goodwin). Sacto consultant Richie Ross did the IE campaign for the L.A. Co. Fed. of Labor...

...Question: who is now best situated to replace Romero? Sacto sources say it's probably Monterey Park Councilwoman Judy Chu, who endorsed Romero. And sources say that Romero has promised to endorse Chu. Stay tuned...

SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

Deadlines for news & Marketplace Network are 12 noon each Wednesday. **Calpeek** is printed and mailed each Thursday. Our FAX ☎ is (310)657-4340. **Calpeek** does NOT make refunds on cancellations...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Mar. 9-13	Nat'l League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference, Washington DC.
Mar. 30-Apr. 1	CA Democratic Party convention @ Anaheim Convention Center.
Mar. 30-Apr. 1	Calif. Republican Assembly annual convention, Renaissance Los Angeles Hotel.
Apr. 3	Glendale & Inglewood city elections; 65 th AD Special runoff election.
Apr. 10	L.A. city primary & 32 nd CD special primary election.
Apr. 17	Compton city election.
Apr. 26	Pat Brown Inst.'s 20 th Annual Awards Dinner, Regal Biltmore Hotel, L.A.
June 5	L.A. city runoff election; 32 nd CD special election runoff.
June 28-30	NALEO's 18 th Annual Conference, San Jose.

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CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Murray Wins Key Backing in 32nd CD** – State Sen. Kevin Murray (D-Culver City) has won the endorsement of Bettye Dixon, widow of the late Congressman Julian Dixon. The special primary is April 10th and is being held to find a replacement for Dixon in this diverse CD. In addition to Bettye Dixon's support, Murray also got a very big win from Demos in the 32nd CD (Calif. Demo Party endorsement). In a 3-way contest with former State Sen. Diane Watson and L.A. Councilman Nate Holden, Murray got 47 votes vs. 7 for Watson and 2 for Holden. In addition, U.S. Rep. Howard Berman (D) now joins his colleague Henry Waxman in backing Murray...

■ **Arnold S. Flip Flops on Run in '02** – In case you missed it, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) has now issued a statement saying he has NOT ruled out a run for governor next year – the day after his spokesperson said he was out...

■ **65th AD Update** – GOP Assembly candidate Russ Bogh got some excellent news in the form of a letter from AG Bill Lockyer (D) exonerating him from all campaign finance complaints. The 65th AD runoff is Apr. 3rd. During the GOP primary, some of Bogh's rivals claimed he violated the campaign laws. This letter will undoubtedly make its way to voters. And even though Bogh is considered a favorite over Demo Ray Quinto, a retired naval officer, sources tell Calpeek that the Calif. Demo Party will "play" in this AD. Quinto has a great resume and ran a good race against Jan Leja. Leja resigned her post in a plea bargain after she admitted violating campaign finance laws...

■ **ARPAC Seeks Political Director** – GOP Assembly leader Bill Campbell is hunting for a full-time political director for the Assembly Republicans. Campbell wants to professionalize this operation, just like the CRP is attempting to do with its staff. At least 3 names have surfaced as possible PDs: Jeff Flint of Russo, Marsh; consultant Mark Thompson; and Tim Clark of JohnsonClark Associates...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of them...

● New CRP Chair Shawn Steel has appointed his campaign coordinator, Jim Camp, as political director of the Calif. Republican Party (CRP)...

● Colton's new mayor is Deirdre Bennett. The 5th District councilwoman took over at former Mayor Betty Cook suffered a stroke and resigned...

● Edelman Worldwide PR has promoted Edith Fernandez to Sr. AE in the firm's Sacto office...

● Gov. Davis has appointed Sacto Undersheriff Carol A. Daly, Associate Warden Booker T. Welch Jr. and former Assemblyman Brett Granlund to the Board of Prison Terms (parole board)...

● Wash. DC-based political consulting firm Strategy Source (Roger Lee) has partnered with L.A.-based political and pr consultant Mark Siegel. Siegel will head of the Strategy Source's West Coast operation. Siegel already had offices in L.A. at 900 Wilshire Blvd., #1000, L.A. 90017. (213)895-4646...

● San Mateo attorney Joe Cotchett has been confirmed as a member of the State's Park & Recreation Commission. Cotchett is a big \$\$\$ contributor to Demos...

● Sacto-based political consultant Philip Muller has been named to the Bipartisan Commission on Internet Political Practices by CA SOS Bill Jones...

● Gov. Davis has appointed former Demo Assembly Leader Richard Katz to the State Water Resources Control Board. This job requires Senate confirmation...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Consensus Planning Group**, a local community relations firm, seeks Project Specialist. Candidates must have outstanding data entry skills, exceptional writing skills, good phone manner and political savvy. Familiarity with local politics, leaders and issues is an advantage. Contact snova@consensusp.com.

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